

## Policy Review

### Planning Process

The Washington State Library has a long history of conducting information needs assessment of the citizens of the state. Inclusive statewide planning began in 1991 when over 100 delegates from around the state participated in the Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services. The initiatives and recommendations from that conference ultimately resulted in the *Statewide Plan for Washington Libraries*, a joint project of the Washington State Library (WSL), the Washington State Advisory Council on Libraries (WSACL), and the Washington State Library Commission.

In 1997, the planning process was expanded to include a series of regional forums, enabling greater participation from all regions of the state in providing input to the issues surrounding the provision of library services. Library staff, community leaders, government officials, and other key stakeholders in the library community attended events in seven Washington cities: Bellingham, Seattle, Olympia, Vancouver, Spokane, Yakima, and Walla Walla. Input from these forums was used to develop a statewide plan for the continuing development and improvement of library services. This work formed the basis for the LSTA five year plan. The three goals of the LSTA program in Washington are based on the statewide plan. In this manner, inclusive participation and citizen oversight has informed every stage of the planning process.

In 2000, another series of statewide forums was held in preparation for developing a new five year plan for Washington, 2002-2007, that will direct LSTA funding priorities for the near future and be reflected in the LSTA five-year plan. Six forums were held to give community members and library representatives an opportunity to provide input. Two of these forums were videoconferences, enabling representatives from small and rural communities to participate in the process. The other four were held in both western and eastern regions of the state: Seattle, Olympia, Yakima, and Spokane. In addition to the forum, an online survey of library staff and trustees was also used to solicit additional feedback. Over 150 people participated in the planning process.

Representatives of the library community oversee the implementation of LSTA funded programs. In total, 131 individuals serve on 12 advisory committees. In addition to Washington State Library staff and Library Council members, these committees include representatives from all types of libraries (see Table 29 for a sample of library representation on four committees).

**Table 29: Number of Representatives on Steering Committees by Library Type**

	Academic	Public	School	Special	Information School	State Library	Library Council
<b>Library Information Technology Work Group</b>	1	6	2	2	1	3	2
<b>Digital Images Initiative Steering Committee</b>	1	2		2		4	
<b>Cooperative Database Licensing Steering Committee</b>	11	6	4	2		2	
<b>Virtual Reference Service Steering Committee</b>	3	3	1	1	2	2	1

### **Awarding of Competitive Grants by Library Type**

Competitive grant awards for locally administered projects were awarded through a series of grant “cycles.” Each cycle refers to the announcement of the grant and a call for applications, the application review period, award announcement, and the implementation period. 120 competitive grants were awarded from 1999-2001 through 9 grant cycles: 5 cycles for Connectivity projects, 2 for Digital Imaging projects, and 2 for Early Learning projects (see Appendix G to see the number of applications and awards by library type for each grant cycle).

Seven of these cycles were open to all types of libraries, while two cycles were only open to public and tribal libraries. The award amounts in these two cycles were rather small, enabling a larger number of grants to be awarded. Consequently, approximately a third of all competitive grants awarded (43 out of 120) were part of cycles that were only open to public and tribal libraries, and this accounts in part for the large proportion of competitive grants received by public libraries.

**Table 30: Competitive Grants Open to Public and Tribal Libraries Only, 1999-2001**

<b>Library Type</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Awards</b>	<b>Percent of Apps. being Awarded</b>	<b>Percent of Total Awards</b>
Academic	0	0	0%	0%
Consortia	0	0	0%	0%
Public	44	41	93%	95%
School	2	0	0%	0%
Special/Tribal	2	2	100%	5%
Total	48	43	90%	100%

**Table 31: Competitive Grants Open to All Libraries, 1999-2001**

<b>Library Type</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Awards</b>	<b>Percent of Apps. being Awarded</b>	<b>Percent of Total Awards</b>
Academic	20	7	35%	9%
Consortia	3	1	33%	1%
Public	78	48	62%	62%
School	77	18	23%	23%
Special/Tribal	12	3	25%	4%
Total	190	77	41%	100%

**Table 32: Grant Applications and Awards for all Competitive Grants, 1999-2001**

<b>Library Type</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Awards</b>	<b>Percent of Apps. being Awarded</b>	<b>Percent of Total Awards</b>
Academic	20	7	35%	6%
Consortia	3	1	33%	1%
Public	122	89	73%	74%
School	79	18	23%	15%
Special/Tribal	14	5	36%	4%
Total	238	120	50%	100%

## **Geographic Distribution of LSTA Funds to Local Libraries**

Apart from statewide projects, LSTA funds have been awarded to local libraries to support projects throughout all regions of the state. While a larger amount of funds has been expended in the western part of the state, this is also where the highest population concentration is located. Higher per capita awards were made in the eastern part of the state. Maps 1 and 2 indicate the geographic differences in distribution when shown as actual dollars versus dollars per capita.

### **Map 1: Total LSTA Awards to Local Libraries by County, 1998-2001**

The award amounts reflected in the map are the sum total of competitive grants, continuing education grants, and SDL subsidies awarded to local institutions of all types in each county.<sup>2</sup> Darker colors indicate a larger award. More funds were awarded in counties with larger population centers. The data used to prepare the map can be found in Appendix C.

### **Map 2: Total LSTA Awards Per Capita Service Population by County, 1998-2001**

The award amounts reflected in this map are the total awards by county from Map 1 divided by the county population figures reported in the *2000 U.S. Census*. When examined in terms of awards per capita, the geographic distribution of funds appears more uniform with higher concentrations in some eastern counties.

Maps 3, 4, and 5 indicate how the different types of grants to local libraries have been distributed throughout the state.

### **Map 3: Competitive Grant Awards to Local Libraries by County, 1999-2001**

The amounts indicated in this map reflect the sum total of 120 competitive grants (i.e. Connectivity, Digital Images, and Early Learning grants) awarded over a three year period. The majority of competitive grants were awarded to libraries in western and eastern counties, but few awards were made in the central region of the state. In several of these central counties, no applications for a competitive grant were received.

### **Map 4: Continuing Education Grant Awards to Local Library Staff, 1998-2001**

The amounts indicated in this map reflect the sum total of 126 continuing education grants awarded to individual library staff members over a four year period. The majority of these grants were awarded to counties containing larger population centers, and likewise a larger number of libraries with larger numbers of staff members.

### **Map 5: Statewide Database Licensing Awards to Participating Libraries, 1999-2001**

The map indicates the amount of funds expended on behalf of institutions in each county as part of subsidizing statewide database licensing, not including funds expended on behalf of school libraries through the Educational Service Districts. Since database

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<sup>2</sup> In five cases where a library system encompasses multiple counties (Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Mid-Columbia Library District, North Central Regional Library, Sno-Isle Regional Library, and Timberland Regional Library), funds were listed in the county of the branch library receiving the benefit of the award. If the benefit of the award was felt across all branch libraries, the funds were proportionately calculated based on the service population in each county.

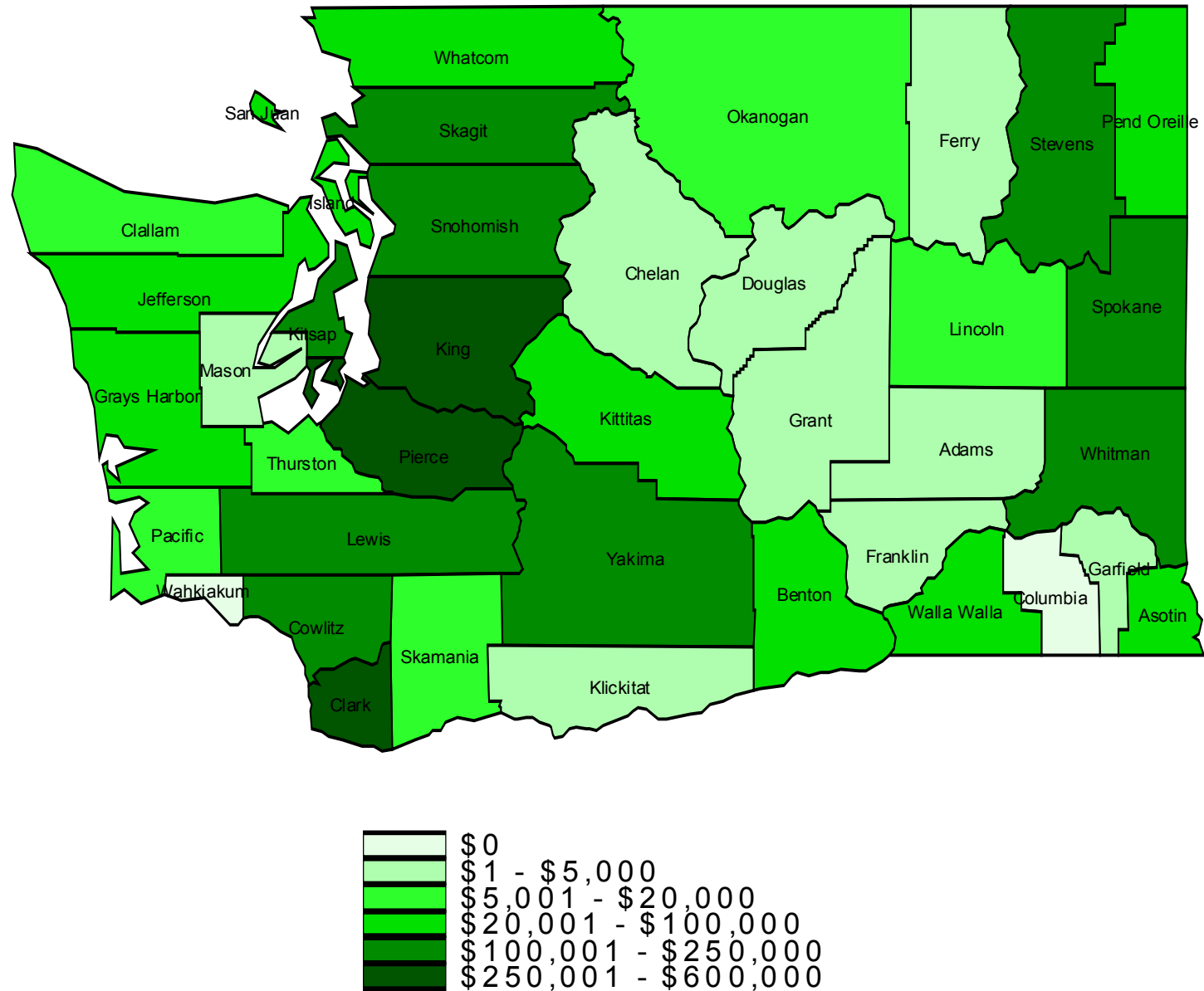
licensing fees are largely based on service population, the distribution of funds imitates the pattern of population distribution in the state.

While the first five maps indicate concentration of expenditures, Map 6 reflects the partial distribution of consulting services throughout the state.

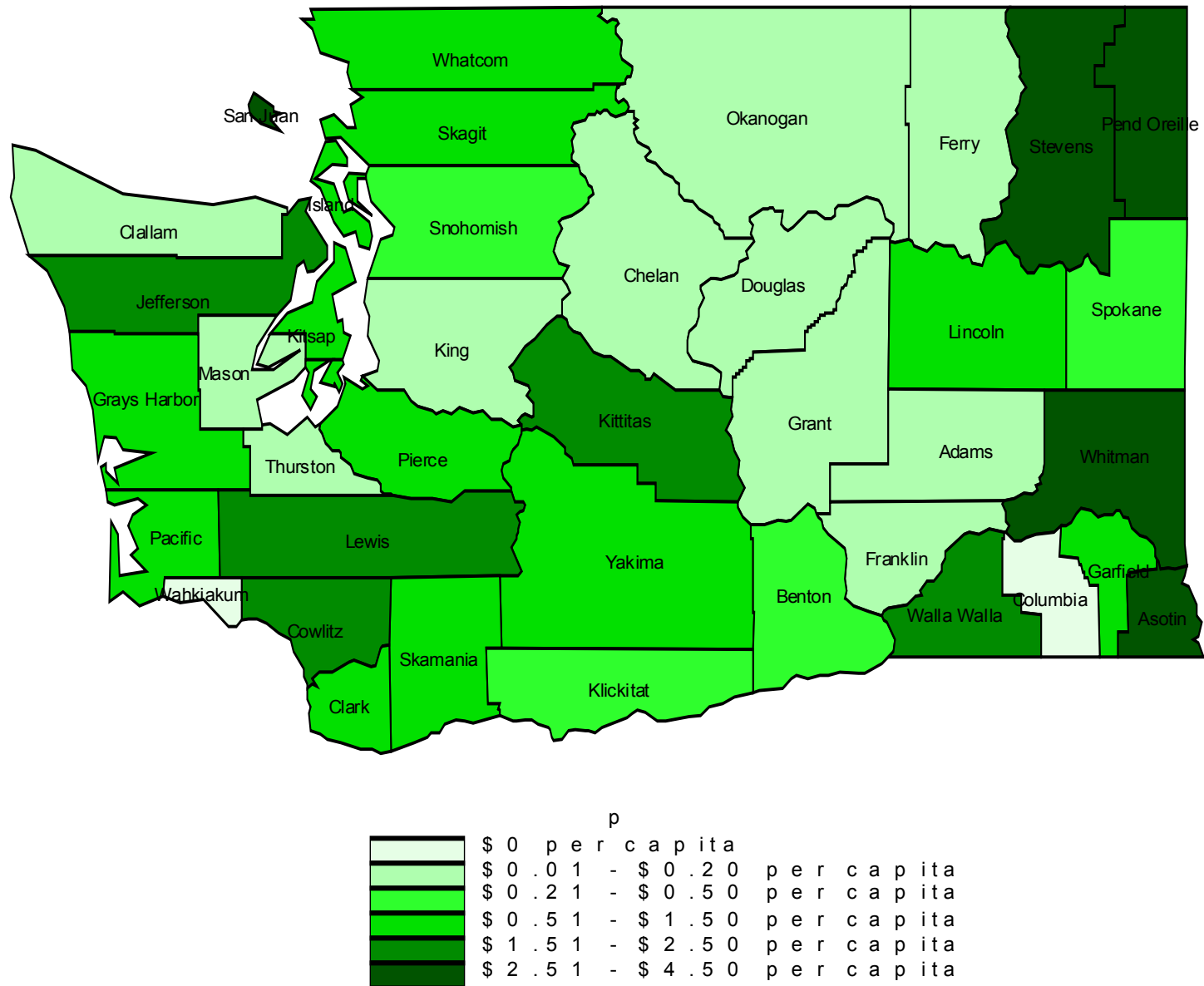
**Map 6: Number of Site Visits by Consultants by County, 2001**

Data regarding the location of site visits were available for two individuals providing technology consulting and one consultant providing management consulting for small and rural libraries. The map only indicates actual visits to a site by a consultant and does not reflect presentations or consulting performed at conferences, nor does it reflect remote consulting performed via telephone or e-mail. Although this is an abbreviated, incomplete representation of consulting activity, the pattern indicated does reveal that some counties where institutions have received smaller monetary awards (i.e. Asotin, Lincoln, Skagit) do receive direct benefits from consulting services provided through the Washington State Library.

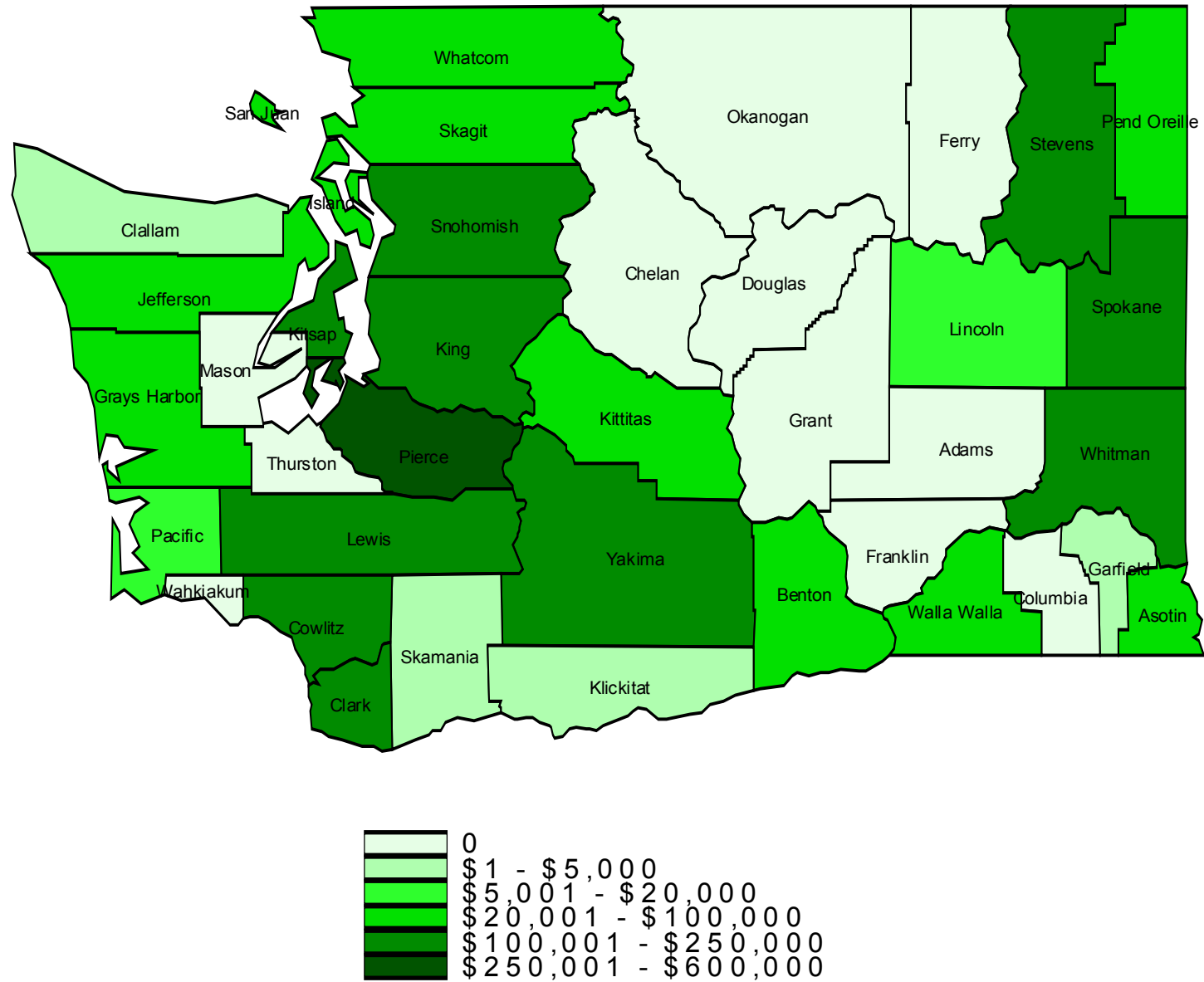
**Map 1: Total LSTA Awards to Local Libraries by County, 1998-2001**



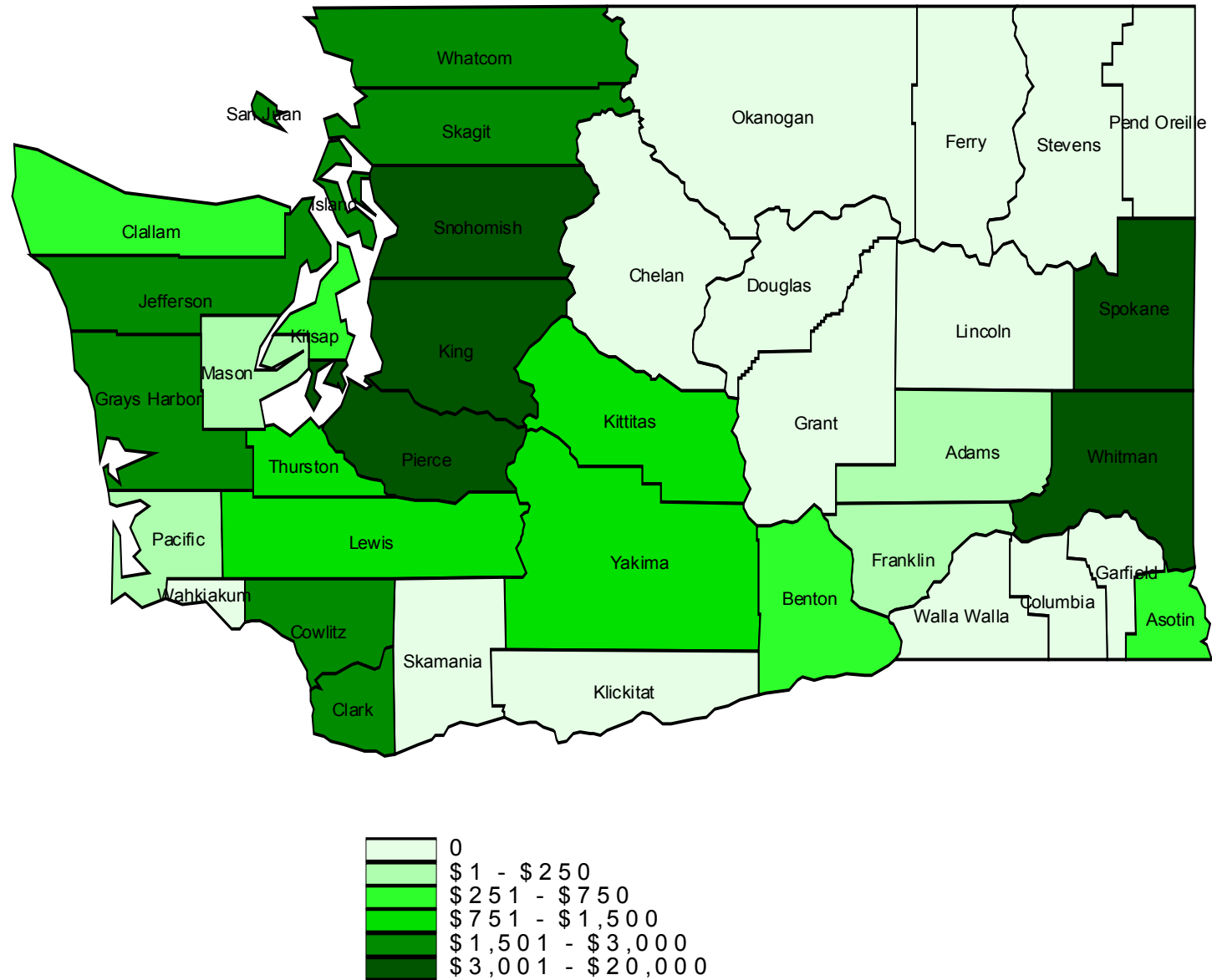
**Map 2: Total LSTA Awards Per Capita Service Population by County, 1998-2001**



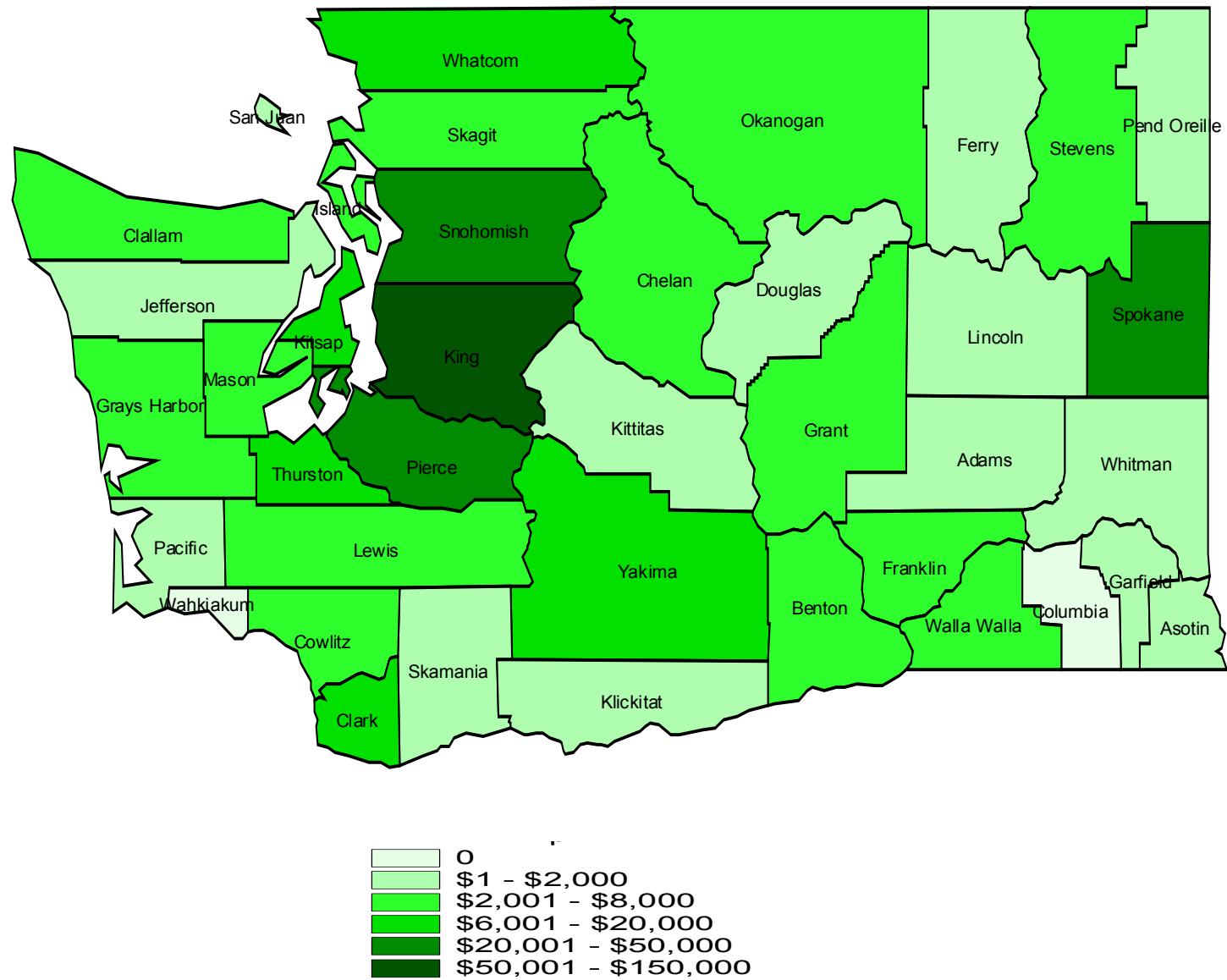
**Map 3: Competitive Grant Awards to Local Libraries by County, 1999-2001**



**Map 4: Continuing Education Grant Awards to Local Library Staff, 1998-2001**



**Map 5: Statewide Database Licensing Awards to Participating Libraries, 1999-2001**



**Map 6: Number of Site Visits by Consultants by County, 2001**

